Anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications

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The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Sampo TERHO (EFD, FI) on an anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications.

The issue of Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) was already raised in the past but has become more topical in recent years in view of the multiplication of threats stemming from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the proliferation of ballistic missiles to which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its European allies must be able to respond effectively.

Members considered that defence against ballistic or other types of missile attacks can constitute a positive development in European security in the context of a rapid international security dynamic, **resulting in a need for the Member States to take into account the implications of BMD for their security**.

The report stressed that EU initiatives, such as Pooling & Sharing, may prove helpful in strengthening cooperation between Member States in the areas of BMD. It stressed that the NATO BMD plan is in no way aimed at Russia and that NATO is prepared to cooperate with Russia based on the assumption of cooperation between two independent missile defence systems – NATO's BMD and that of Russia.

Members called on the Vice President / High Representative to **pursue a strategic partnership with NATO**, taking account of the issue of BMD, which should lead to the provision of full coverage and protection for all EU Member States, thus avoiding a situation in which the security afforded to them would be in anyway differentiated;

Lastly, the European External Action Service, the Commission, the European Defence Agency and the Council are called upon to include BMD issues in future security strategies, studies and white papers.